

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector 6361 Lancaster Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065 Www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/aecst1792

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 18, 2022, 10:00 AM "WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH"

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

Give thanks unto Him and bless His name".

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this the Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost, 230th Church Anniversary, and Homecoming Sunday.

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

Faithfully, The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

Please click for the <u>Order of Service</u> for this Sunday's service.

AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE: 230TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING WEEKEND!



African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas – 230th Anniversary Weekend Celebration

AECST Family, join us to celebrate our 230th Anniversary Weekend, this Saturday, September 17th, and Sunday, September 18th.

On Saturday, join us beginning at 11 AM for a public ceremonial Street Renaming in honor of our Founder, Rev. Absalom Jones – Abolitionist and the first Black Priest in the U.S.A.

The celebration begins with a program to highlight many who work to elevate our church Community. Joining us will be Bishop Daniel Gutierrez, music by the AECST Gospel Choir, Dr. Jay Fluellen, and Cedric Babb. The ceremony will also include remarks from City and Federal; officials and the unveiling of the new street sign in Rev. Absalom's honor.

Following the ceremony, we will rejoice in a festive reception featuring delicious food courtesy of Brotherly Grub, delightful treats, a soulful DJ, joyful fellowship, and much more!

On Sunday, join us for a Festive Homecoming Service at church, followed by an outdoor reception featuring a delectable menu by our own Pat Holmes, and music by jazz vocalist Barbara Walker & Trio.

NEWS RELEASE: Philly to Rename Section of Lancaster Avenue
After Prominent Black Abolitionist - Click for Details

PICTURES FROM THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST AND OUR ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL / EDUCATION SUNDAY September 11, 2022

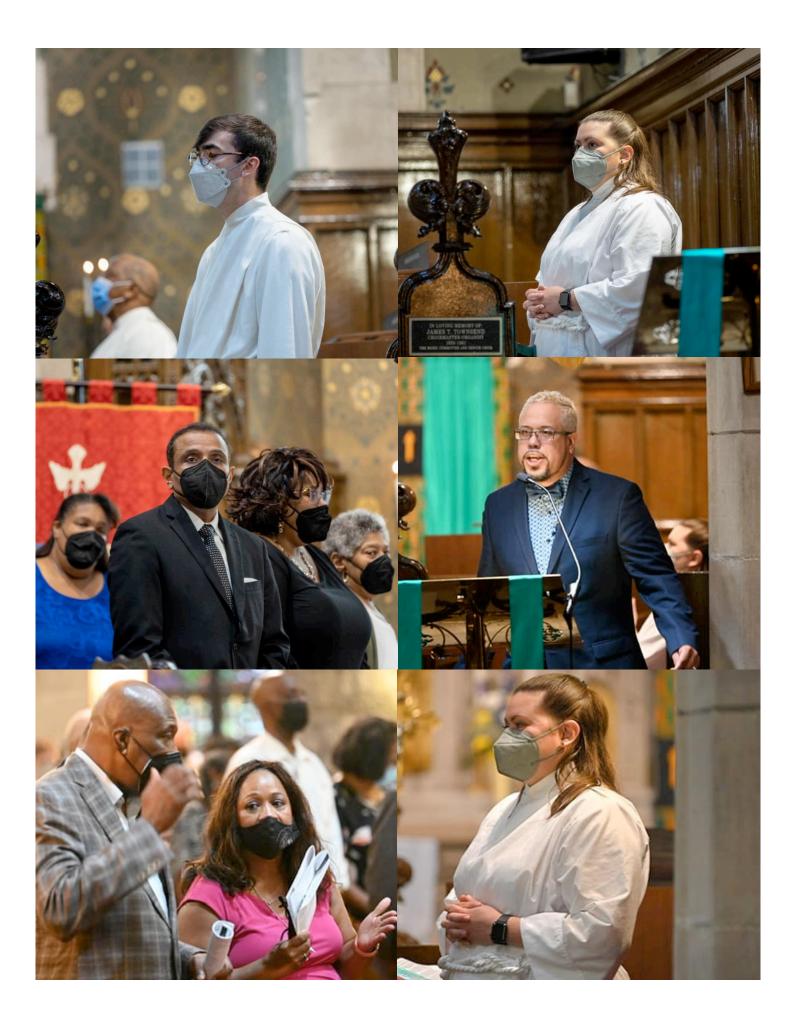




















IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks will remain MANDATORY while at St. Thomas until further notice. St. Thomas will follow the recommended guidelines of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Diocese of PA. Let us love our neighbor and worship safely!

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. Hand sanitizer is also available. The ventilation system has been changed to let in outside air. We request that all in attendance be VACCINATED. Unvaccinated individuals are requested to watch the Service via <u>Live Stream</u>.

A FEW QUOTES AND PARAPHRASES ON "VIRTUAL WORSHIP"

"Virtual and live stream worship have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to the church. However, by no means can it substitute coming and physically receiving the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Communion)."

(From Fr. Martini Shaw's Homily on Jan. 16, 2022).

"Online Masses and Spiritual Communion do not represent the church. The faithful not gathered to receive the Sacraments is not the church. Jesus' disciples always lived their relationship with the Lord in Community. They gathered, around the sacrament, at the same table, as a sign of community". (Pope Francis' message)

"If you are unable to receive the Sacrament, by reasons of extreme sickness or physical disability; or when being present at a celebration is absolutely impossible, it is possible to open yourself to God's grace and blessing". (Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer). **From the Rector:** Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.

This morning we will bless the Columbarium Addition and Dedicate it to the Memory of **Geraldine B. Wood.**

This morning, **Roger Erving Smith, Sr.**, will be placed in his final resting place, the St. Thomas Columbarium at the conclusion of today's service.

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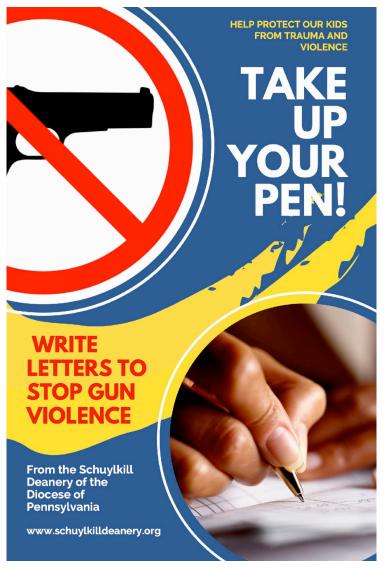
We welcome two new Seminarians into our church family:



David King - Seminarian at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ.



Kathryn Brossa - Seminarian at General Theological Seminary in New York.



CALL TO ACTION - THE SCHUYLKILL DEANERY'S LETTERS TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE - TAKE UP YOUR PENS!

St Thomas, you are reminded to take a copy of the letter home today. YOU are asked to address the letter with your state legislature's name and address. Mail your letter this week! (Don't forget your return address). There will be additional mailings in July, August, and September. The Schuylkill Deanery will provide us with copies of

letters each month as we attempt to be a consistent and constant voice addressing gun violence in Philadelphia. Here are links to the <u>Letter</u> and <u>Script</u>.

If you have any specifics you would like to see added to future letters, please contact <u>Mary Dean</u> or <u>Phyllis Cater</u>. Your voices need to be heard!

How to Find Your Representative: Need to find your local, state, or federal elected representatives so that you can mail our letter? https://myreps.datamade.us/

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

An Enormous Thanks to **Dr. Monica Taylor Johnson, Dr. Deidre Farmbry and the Committee** for a glorious Education and
Back To School Sunday last week when we welcomed the new
Superintendent of The Philadelphia School District and many other guests.

An Enormous Thanks to the Co-Chairs: **Albert Dandridge,III Esq., | Monica Lewis Jones | Catherine Stafford**of our 230th Anniversary Celebration.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Sat, Sept. 24th

Outdoor Youth Fun Day for all ages 10:00 A.M.-2:00 PM Please see the flyer for more information.

Sat, Sept. 24th

The St. Thomas Chancel Choir presents the Howard University Gospel Choir, Swarthmore College Gospel Choir and the St. Thomas Gospel Choir in concert at 2:00 PM at St. Thomas 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa 19151

Sun, Sept. 25th

Church School Kick-Off for all grades. (Immediately following the Service: There will be a Rector's Reception for families with children ages infant - 5 years old)

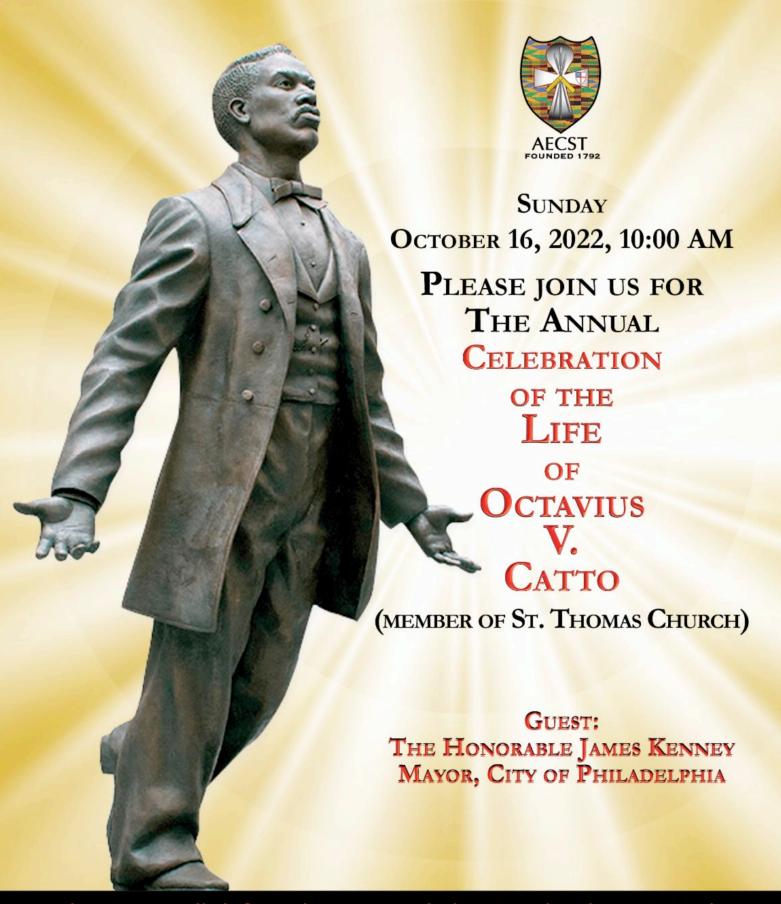
Sun, Oct. 2nd - Kick-Off - Stewardship 2023

Sun, Oct 9th - Observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assissi (Blessing of the Animals)

This year, the animals of our family will be blessed by us placing on the altar their possessions. Please bring a photo, a collar, a leash, or anything that belongs to your pet to be blessed.

Sun, Oct. 16th - Octavius V. Catto Observance.

Please see flyer for more details.



Live Stream link found on our website, Facebook, or YouTube.

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African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Women's Day Committee Fundraiser

'Pretzels & A Bag'

Enjoy a Delicious Philly Pretzel

\$1.00 each



Carry your goods in Style

with a

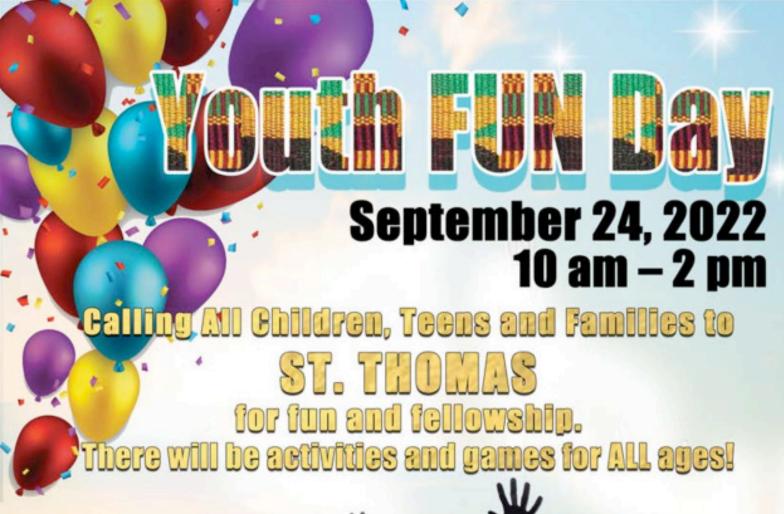
Limited Edition Custom Tote Bag

\$15.00 each

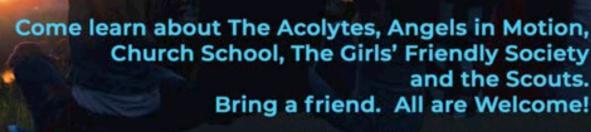
Women's Day Special

2 for \$25.00

Proceeds benefit the AECST
General Fund







For more information, contact Nikki Simms at njsimms@verizon.net or Wendella Fox at wpfox3008@verizon.net

AECST

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THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

CHURCH SCHOOL RETURNS:

IN PERSON / VIRTUAL
SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2022

CALLING ALL AECST
YOUTH AGES 4 THRU HIGH SCHOOL
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL THEME FOR 2022

THE LORD'S PRAYER"

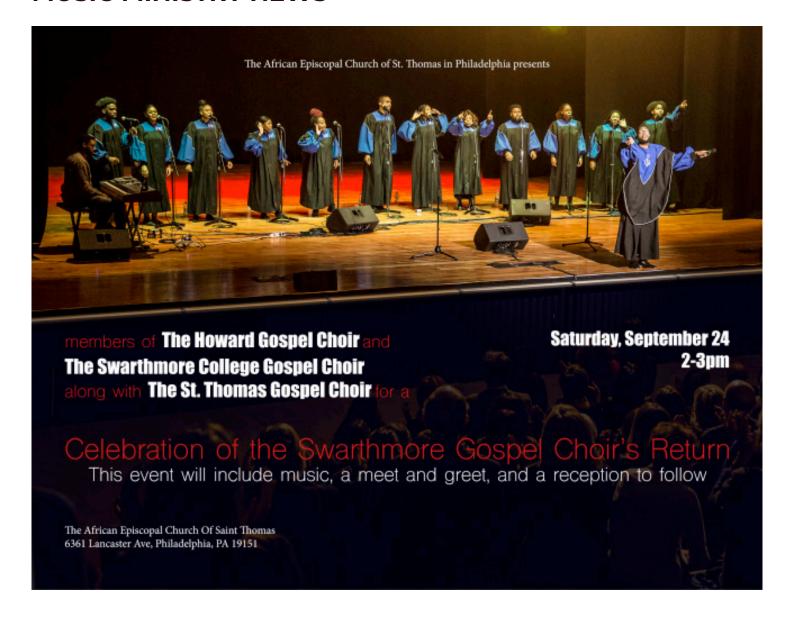
JOIN US AS WE RE-IMAGE OUR CHURCH SCHOOL ADVENTURES WITH PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, PROGRAMS AND FUN!

REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 21, 2022
IN PERSON OR USING OUR REGISTRATION LINK
https://forms.gle/pegss3GK3gVDxBHn9

QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT:
DOTTIE ARCHEY AT
CHURCHSCHOOL@AECST.ORG
OR (215) 837-6941

START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO,
AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT. PROVERBS 22:6 NIV
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MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble.

If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact **D. Lynn Joell** if interested.

to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact **Alfreda Brockman**.

to serve as **Readers** and **Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

as Acolytes to serve on the altar. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

Calling All Future Shepherds of the AECST: Plans are in the works for resurrecting and re-imagining the SHEEP & SHEPHERDS MINISTRY created many years ago by parishioner Mrs. Vernette Dow. As a telephone ministry, the goal is that every AECST family of parishioners (sheep) will have a shepherd that keeps in touch with them on a regular basis. We are now calling for parishioners to volunteer as shepherds. Before this ministry can be rolled-out, a sufficient number of volunteers is needed in order to minimize the number of families that each will shepherd. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd new members. For more information and to volunteer, please either see

Charlene M. Wiltshire before or after Sunday church services or send an email. Thank you!

POSITION OPENING - ST. THOMAS ASSISTANT SEXTON

Part-time position is open for an Assistant Sexton. Hours are typically some weekday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Presently, reduced hours due to pandemic restrictions. Hours will increase as in-person activities increase. For more information, interested persons should contact:

Deborah Harrison.

ATTENTION:

We are so blessed to be stewards of a beautiful property that God has entrusted to our care. Persons are needed to serve on our Property Committee. If interested, please speak with **Deborah Harrison** or call the Parish Office to express your interest.

If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a **monthly Vestry meeting** via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to vestryclerk@aecst.org at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas <u>website</u>, the <u>Live Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch <u>Past Services</u> and <u>Highlights</u> from past services.

ATTENTION RISING COLLEGE FRESHMEN: FENCE (Families of Episcopalians Nurturing within the College Environment) is a ministry created for the AECST's college students who will be living away from home. An Episcopal parish closest to your campus and a family or individual that is a member of that parish will help to facilitate your assimilation into your new community.

If interested, for more information, please send an email to Ms. Charlene M. Wiltshire at cwiltshi@comcast.net
providing your name, telephone number, college name & address. You may also speak with her before or after Sunday services.

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the <u>Newsletter</u> sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

ATTENTION ALL MEN

Every Sunday, ALL men are invited to briefly stop and greet other men of the parish outside under the carport after service each week.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for the Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost 9/18/22

The First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

The Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

The Holy Gospel Readings for The Week of 9/19//22

Monday - Matthew 5:21-26

Tuesday - Matthew 5:27-37

Wednesday - Matthew 5:38-48

Thursday - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Friday - Matthew 6:7-15

Saturday - Matthew 6:19-24

Readings for the Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost 9/25/22

The First Reading: Amos 6:1a,4-7

Psalm 146

The Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

The Holy Gospel Readings for The Week of 9/26//22

Monday - Matthew 6:25-34

Tuesday - Matthew 7:1-12

Wednesday - Matthew 7:13-21

Thursday - Matthew 7:22-29

Friday - Matthew 8:1-17

Saturday - Matthew 8:18-27

Readings for the Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost 10/2/22

The First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4,2:1-4

<u>Psalm 37:1-10</u>

The Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The Holy Gospel Readings for The Week of 10/3/22

Monday - Matthew 8:28-34

Tuesday - Matthew 9:1-8

Wednesday - Matthew 9:9-17

Thursday - Matthew 9:18-26

Friday - Matthew 9:27-34

Saturday - Matthew 9:35-10:4

ASSOCIATE RECTOR SEARCH

The Rector has restarted an official Search Process for the Calling of an Associate to the Rector for Youth Ministries and Parish Life.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are in need of Acolytes (Youth and Adults). Please consider serving God in this rewarding ministry. If interested, please contact the Rector ASAP.



AECST BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JAY Resumes via Zoom Tuesday, September 13th at 7pm.

If you are interested in joining a lively, interactive Bible Study Group, contact Fr. Jay via email at: associatepriest@aecst.org to be included on our membership list serve. You will receive the Zoom link and our weekly lesson plan to prepare, in advance, for the week's meeting.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Roosevelt, Sr. Gail, Roosevelt, Jr.,
Quentin, Victoria and family on the death of Roosevelt's
brother, Dennis Irving . May the soul of Dennis rest in
peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Our condolences to Gregory Lyles and family on the death of his father, **the Rev. Eugene Lyles, Sr.** May the soul of Eugene rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar are given in Thanksgiving for **The Rev. Absalom Jones and our 230th Anniversary,** given by Calais & Eugene Harris.

Flowers on the Columbarium are In Loving Memory and Dedication of the Columbarium to **Geraldine B. Wood.**

Flowers on the Columbarium are In Loving Memory of my wife **Phyllis B. Johnson**, given with love by your husband Bobby.

To order flowers for the Sunday, please return the form with payment to: Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman. Please do not place in the collection plate or give to the church office) Thank you.

flowers on the High Altar - \$60.00 flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00 flowers on the Columbarium- \$40.00	
Please PRINT In Memory of	
In Thanksgiving for	
Given By	
Envelope# Amount	

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Linda Holmes, Angela Foster

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Gwenda Hart, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Rosalind Rodriquez, Deborah "Binky" Seay, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall, Charles Fleming, Harold Yates, Leatrice Snowden.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Terri Barber, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Karen Ragland, Winston Lowe, Kenneth Dow, Edita Gauthney, Justin Trotman, Teena Watson Matthews, Gail and Roosevelt Harris, Sr.

WE PRAY FOR

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium inurnment, please contact the church office at 215-473-3065

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

THE 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

are now ready for you to pick up in Anderson Hall. If you're unable to pick them up on Sundays after church you may pick them up Monday through Friday from 9-4. And if you have a parishioner who lives near you who can't get to church perhaps you can pick theirs up as well. Thank you very much. Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or email, please do so ASAP. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or **Online Giving Donations**, please email your name and envelope number.
Thank you very much. -Judy Tillman

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CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement **Donation Button** on our **website**.

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

"To whom much is given, much is required." Luke 12:48

- 1) Sunday Offering Plate.
- 2) Mail in your check or money order to the church. Please use the following address: The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas c/o Fiscal Administrator. 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) Church website Online Giving
 Simply select the button/s on the page that represents
 where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your
 pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) **Pledge Cards**: Pledge cards can still be sent for 2022. Please send them via the US mail to the church or **electronically** through the **www.aecst.org** website or send an email to our **Fiscal Administrator**. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of (10% of our earnings)

Where are you on your spiritual journey? Annual Faithful Giving

Yearly Income	2%	5%	10%
\$10,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
\$20,000.00	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
\$25,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,500.00
\$30,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00
\$70,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00
\$80,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
\$90,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$4,500.00	\$9,000.00
\$100,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
\$110,000.00	\$2,200.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,000.00
\$120,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
\$150,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,000.00
\$175,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
\$200,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop Rector Assistant to the Rector Associate Priest Associate Minister Associate Minister

Executive Asst to the Rector Fiscal Administrator Sexton Asst Sexton Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel **Baptism Co-Chairs**

Church School Superintendent Ed Muse Photography Ministry Fiscal Assistant to the Rector Girls Friendly Society Jazz Ensemble Director Live Stream Ministry

Memorial Flowers

Parish Vergers

Parish Webmaster Property Chair Special Advisor to the Rector Scout Pack 133

Transportation Ministry Videography Ministry William Burke Ushers Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins The Rev. Dr. Thomas G Snowden The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach

Gladyce DuBrey Jeannette Jeffrey LaDon Elliott Ronald Jones Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. Waltier Blocker Joe Tucker, Esq. Gail H Harris Patricia Walker-Ellison

Dottie Archey William Edmonds Deborah Camp - Frve Nikkol Simms

Joe Stevenson Yaseen Faroog Terri Tillman

Alfreda Brockman Clare Mae Daniels Stephen Hannum Karen Ragland Lisa Steward-New Gail H Harris

Deborah Harrison Richard Jones Howard Chapman Arlene Gray

J. Reggie Kimble Que ntin Heyward Arlene Singletary

associatepriest@aecst.org dravidian@comcast.net pauliaybach@gmail.com

rector@aecst.org

1792@aecst.org fiscal@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org 1792@aecstorg chancelchoir@aecst.org gospelchoir@aecst.org itucker@tlgattorneys.com thegail@hotmail.com p.walker.ellison@gmail.com churchschool@aecst.org edmon57@comcast.net 1792@aecst.org njsimms@verizon.net jobopss@aol.com livevideo@aecst.org

fredabee@verizon.net happycmd05@aol.com 1792@aecst.org Kdrags415@gmail.com ljs210@msn.com webmanager@aecst.org dneharrison04@gmail.com r724jones1@gmail.com howchapman@gmail.com bsapack0133@gmail.com tkglimo@aol.com recordedvideo@aecst.org leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Deadra Cannon Accounting Warden - Kelvin Johnson Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Patricia Bantom
Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
Ronnie Collins
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Jonathan Muse
Darryl (Bobby) Tillman
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Patricia Akins Conchetta Brewer Sharon Bullock Gregory Lyles Patricia Lynch

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.